



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES



H. "BUTCH" BROWNING, JR.
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

WHEREAS, Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a state of emergency in response to the outbreak of the respiratory disease, coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

WHEREAS, effective March 25, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., to assist in preventing potential fire-related dangers during this state of emergency and to diminish any airborne irritants caused by burning, the State Fire Marshal ordered a statewide cease and desist order for all private burning, pursuant to his authority under R.S. 40:1602 with private burning only to be allowed by permission of the local fire department or local government;

WHEREAS, the cease and desist order does not apply to prescribed burns by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, by those trained and certified by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or by those who conduct prescribed burning as a "generally accepted agriculture practice" as defined by the Louisiana Right to Farm Law;

WHEREAS, a line of severe thunderstorms moved across Louisiana during the early morning on April 12, 2020, bringing with it heavy rainfall, wind gusts up to 60 miles per hour, large hail (two inches in diameter or greater), flash flooding, and strong or long tracked tornado activity resulting in downed trees, structure damage, and debris (which includes, vegetation, limbs, fallen trees, and damaged construction material);

WHEREAS, multiple parishes, including, Bossier, DeSoto, and Ouachita, have reported downed trees, debris, and significant damage to numerous structures;

NOW THEREFORE, I, H. "BUTCH" BROWNING, Fire Marshal of the State of Louisiana, by the authority of Louisiana R.S. 40:1602, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: The March 25, 2020 statewide cease and desist order for all private burning, pursuant to his authority under R.S. 40:1602, with private burning only to be allowed by permission of the local fire department or local government, is modified to allow for the burning of debris resulting from the April 12, 2020 severe thunderstorms, wind gusts, hail, flash flooding, and strong or long tracked tornado activity unless prohibited by the local governing authority. This modification is limited to the parishes of Ouachita, Bossier, and DeSoto.

This order is effective April 16, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. and shall remain in effect until April 30, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

BY ORDER OF:

**H. "Butch" Browning
State Fire Marshal**